

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

SECRET

Maxine

OGC 83-03254
6 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

[]

SUBJECT: Department of Justice Investigation of Klaus
Barbie

1. [] and I met with Allan Ryan, Jr., Department of Justice, Office of Special Investigations, on Wednesday 4 May 1983 with regard to their on-going investigation of alleged U.S. Government assistance to, or involvement with, Klaus Barbie. Mr. Ryan reviewed Father Dragonovich's 201 file and interviewed [] formerly the []

2. Ryan posed the following questions to [] and the following points/responses were made:

- a. [] during 1973-1975.
- b. One of [] sources was a man named Freddie Vargus. Ryan interviewed Vargus when he was in Bolivia recently. Vargus was an official at the Bolivian Ministry of Interior during the period of [] assignment to La Paz. [] and Vargus were very close.
- c. Ryan asked [] if he ever received information about Soviet activities in Bolivia from Vargus. [] said no and stated that Vargus mainly supplied him with information concerning drug traffic.
- d. Ryan asked if [] felt that Vargus would have supplied him with information about Soviet activities if he had such information. [] said yes, and noted that the only such information he ever received from Vargus concerned the names of Soviet diplomatic personnel posted to the USSR's embassy in La Paz. [] stated that to the best of his knowledge the Bolivians did not run operations against the Soviets.

FOR COORDINATION WITH *ed* DoJ

SECRET

CL BY []
DECL OADR
DERIVED FROM HUM 4-82

SECRET

- e. Ryan asked if the name Klaus Barbie/Altmann ever came up in [] conversations with Vargus or if [] ever had any contact with Barbie/Altmann. [] responded no to both questions.
- f. In response to a question from Ryan, [] said that he had no recollection of the name Barbie/Altmann.
- g. Ryan asked if [] had ever received information from Vargus which Vargus had, in turn, received from Barbie. [] responded that to the best of his knowledge he had never received such information. Moreover, if Vargus had provided [] with a piece of useful information, [] would have wanted to know who the source of such information was so that he [] could check any available files on the individual.
- h. Ryan asked of [] knew a Mr. McFaren (spelling?). [] said no.
- i. Ryan asked if [] had any specific recollection of Soviet agents operating in South America. [] said no.
- j. Ryan said that he understood that there was (still is?) a network of ex-Nazis in South America called Odessa. Did [] know of the Odessa? [] said that he does not remember a so-called Odessa network, although there were a number of pro-German Bolivian nationals around while he was in La Paz.
- k. Ryan asked if [] knew of any relationship between the Bolivian Ministry of Interior and Klaus Barbie/Altmann. [] said he had no recollection of any such relationship.

Ryan told [] that he had no more questions and thanked him for his time.

[]